

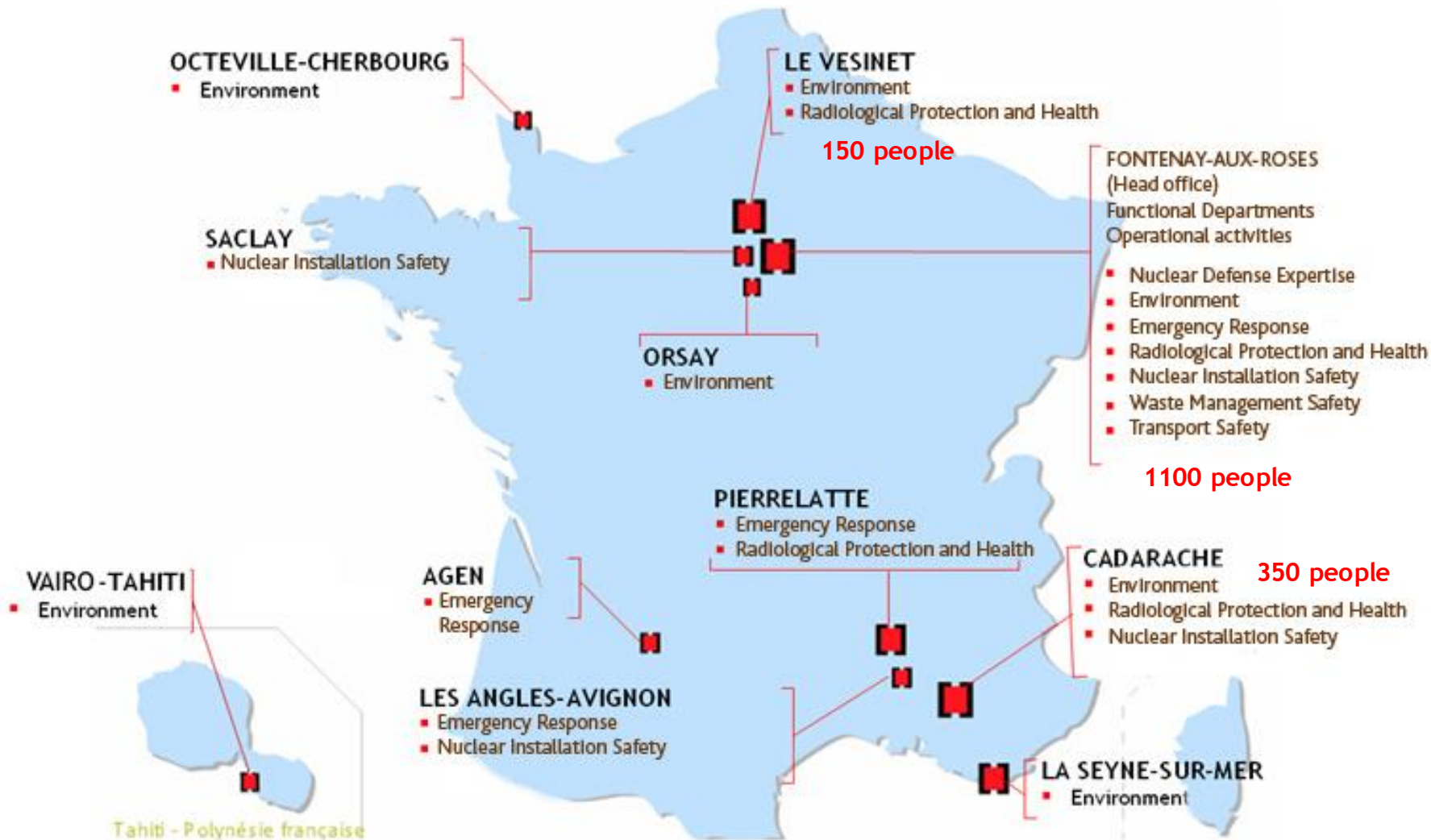
Good practice from France: Engagement with Local Communities to enhance Emergency Preparedness

- Radiation protection & Nuclear Safety Citizens Engagement & Participation Strategy from IRSN for the Public to be better prepared in case of crisis situations



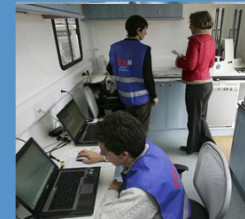
Ilma CHOFFEL DE WITTE
International Public Relations Officer
Marie-Pierre BIGOT
Director of Communications
© IRSN

Identity of IRSN

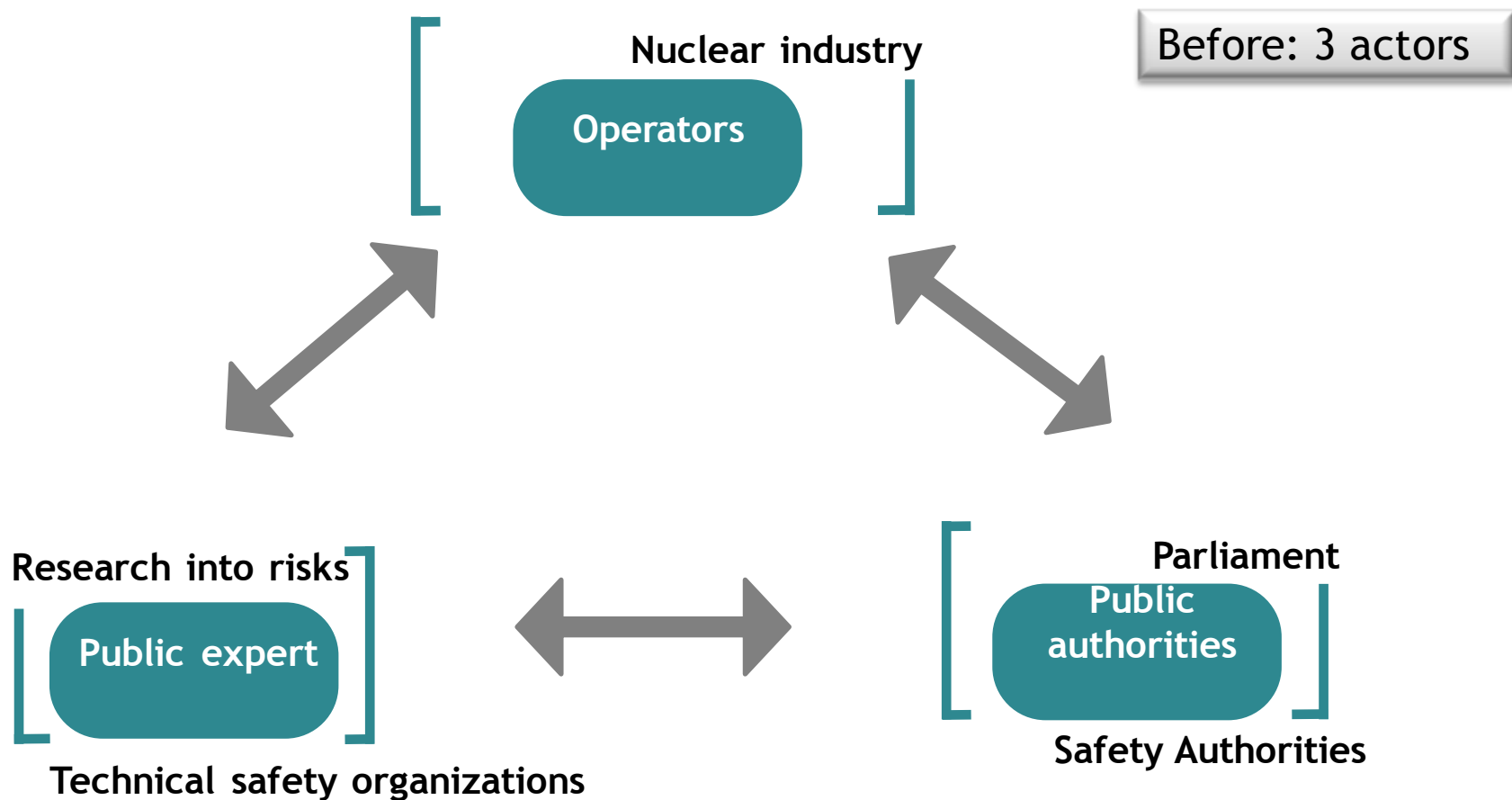


Three main missions

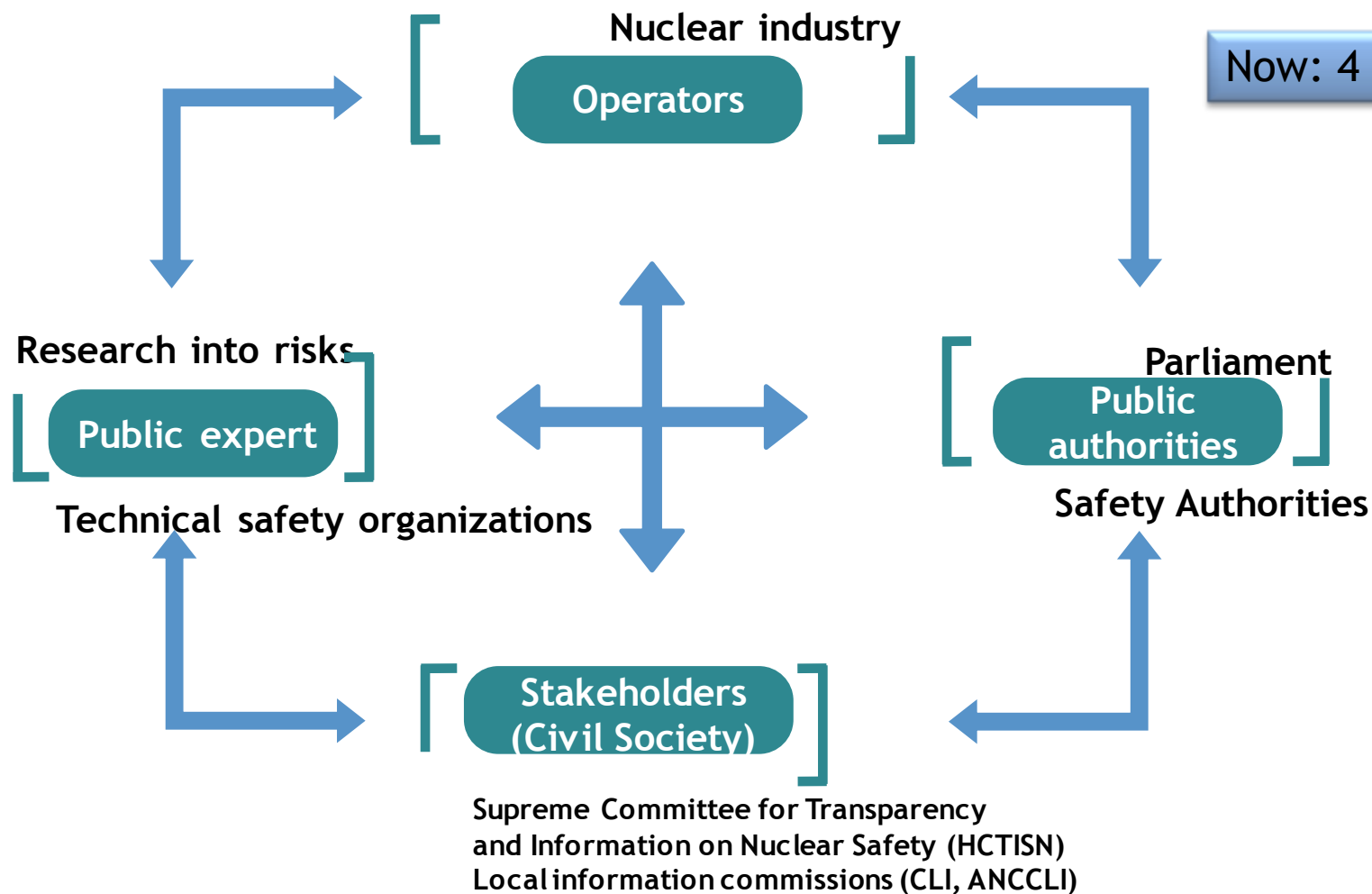
- Research and services of public interest, including public transparency and openness to civil society.
- Support and technical assistance to the public authorities for civil or defense-related activities.
- Contractual assessment, study and measurement services for public and private organizations, both French and foreign



French nuclear risk governance (1/2)



French nuclear risk governance(2/2)



French Barometer of Public perception of risks and safety

For 30 years, IRSN has been carrying out an annual survey on the public opinion towards risks and safety

French people strongly support pluralism in risk assessment and interaction with experts:

- **80 %** desire a pluralist evaluation of the safety of nuclear facilities, involving stakeholders and international experts.
- **89 %** approve structures bringing together scientific experts, political decision makers, industrialists, associations and citizen to deal with the risk situations and their management.
- **69 %** consider that IRSN technical advices have to be shared with NGO's and citizens.



<http://barometre.irsnn.fr/>

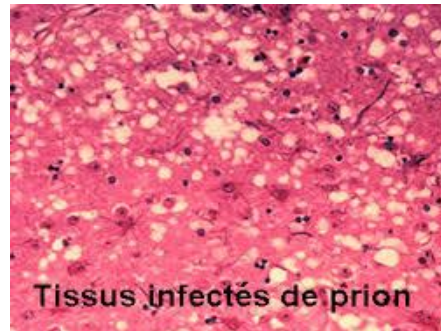
Context

➤ Rising expectations from the Public



International and French Public Health events:

- Chernobyl
- Mad Cow Disease
- Asbestos
- French « tainted blood » case, etc.

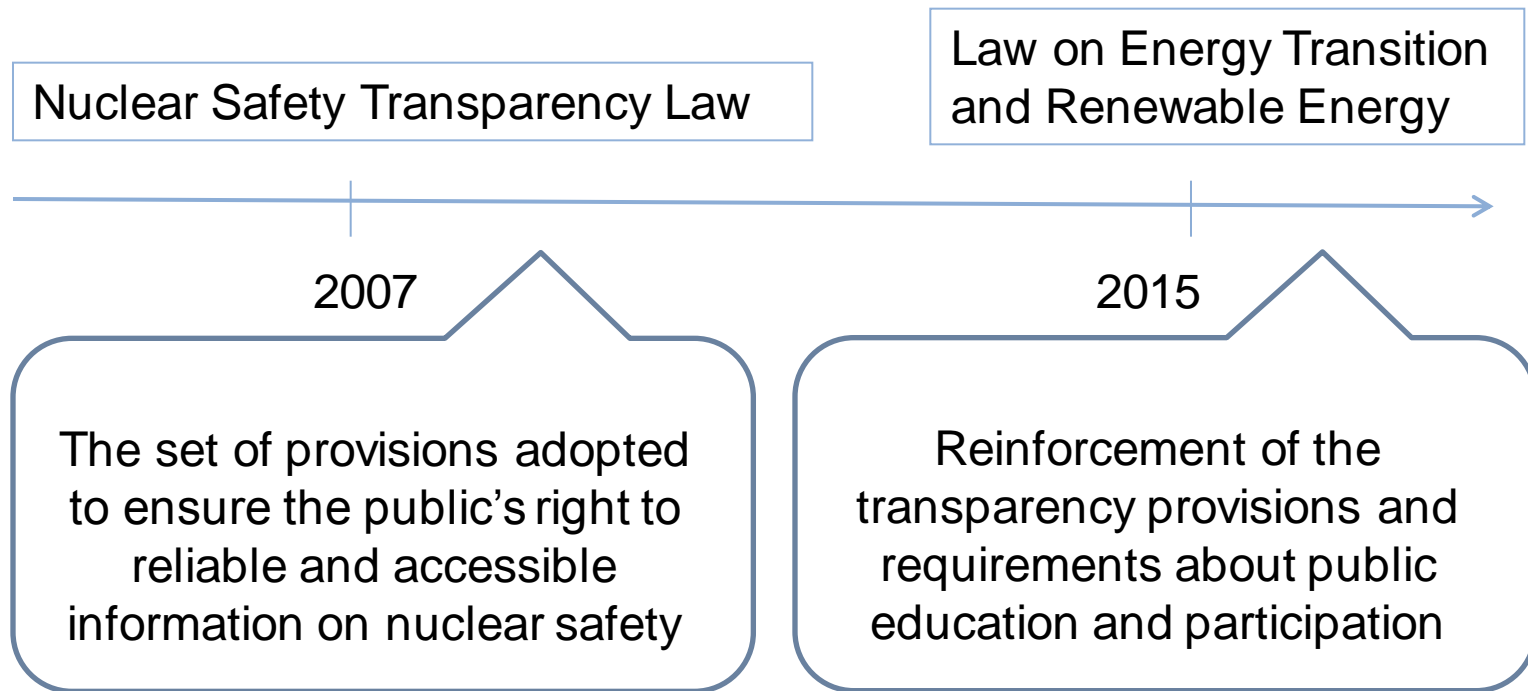


➤ Imply Rising legal requirements

1998 **Aarhus Convention** : 3 pillars Right to Know -
Right to Participate - Right to Justice

Context

➤ The French Nuclear Safety Regulation framework



Why Engagement with Local Communities



- ❑ To help Interested Parties build their technical skills
- ❑ To improve the visibility and credibility of the Regulatory Bodies and their TSOs
- ❑ But first and foremost: to enhance the quality of expertise

Citizens Engagement & Participation is not one more way to communicate about our expertise, it is a new way to perform our expertise

CLI and ANCCLI

- ❑ **Local Committees (CLI):** existing around nuclear plants since the 1980's and have been reinforced by the 2006 ACT on Transparency and Nuclear Safety.
- ❑ **ANCCLI:** The National Organisation of CLI has been created in 2000.
- ❑ **2003:** Signature of a cooperation agreement between IRSN and ANCCLI
 - Training
 - Evaluations on specific topics
 - Information



The collaboration resulted in IRSN's Charter on openness to society signed in April 10th 2009

IRSN's Charter on Openness to Society (April 10th 2009)

3 commitments to improve risk assessment through a better interaction with society

- ❑ Enhance **transparency**
- ❑ **Share** knowledge
- ❑ **Help** stakeholders to acquire skills

➤ **The Public Knowledge**

3 commitments to implement openness to society

- ❑ Enhance **ability** to interact with stakeholders
- ❑ **Mobilize resources** for stakeholders' involvement
- ❑ Carry out an **internal policy** on openness to society



Charter shared with other French expertise and research institutes

THE CHALLENGE MET



PILOTE ACTION LOIRE ENVIRONMENT (APEL) 2006-2008

Partnership between IRSN and CLI's in the Valley of the River Loire to improve the Communication on Environment Monitoring Data

OUTPUT FOR IRSN

- The collaboration inspired IRSN to set-up the National Network of Radioactivity Measures in the Environment
- (RNM - officially active since 2010)
- <https://www.mesure-radioactivite.fr>

OUTPUT FOR CLI

- Active participation in Environment Monitoring
- The development of inter CLI cooperation for the Loire Valley
- Consolidation of the relationship with CLI and ANCLI



European and French legal framework (2/2)



... beyond transparency

Aarhus Convention & Nuclear (ACN) process initiated in 2008

- implemented by ANCCLI with European Commission, with support of IRSN, ASN...
 - ❖ Main ACN lessons learned to enhance public involvement in decision-making:
 - Give the public access to operator documentation and existing expert assessments **as early as possible**
 - Develop participation in decision-making **when all options are still open**
 - **“Giving more time”** is a key prerequisite

Benefits of Local Communities involvement

■ Benefits for IRSN

- Improve the **credibility** of IRSN actions
- Improve the visibility of IRSN actions
- **Enhance the quality of our expertise** through the social stakeholders complementary **point of view**
→ **it is not a new way to communicate it is a new way to perform our expertise**

■ Benefits for Local Communities

- **Build their own technical skills**
- « *Gradually build a reciprocal understanding of expectations and constraints* »
- « *Facilitate the emergence of news ideas or hypothesis* »
→ **it is a way to enhance safety through Citizen Vigilance**

Benefits of Local Communities involvement

- ❑ CLI & ANCLI in France participated in the development of a Legal Doctrine for the aftermath of a nuclear accident.

Work steered by the Regulator ASN, were validated by the Prime Minister in 2013

Today CLI & ANCLI participate in the follow-up phase of the Legal Doctrine already developed

- ❑ The input of CLI & ANCLI

Different angle of approach coming from citizens based on the main worries such as life conditions and the remediation of contaminated territories after a nuclear accident

CLI & ANCLI also ensure in the aftermath the interface between the population and the Operator and the Official bodies such as the Regulator ASN and IRSN

